

July 2, 2020

Dear Area Commissioners,

Thank you for your service and commitment to our City and our residents. During this time, Area Commissions are operating under very different circumstances and we appreciate all of your efforts in adapting to changing conditions. To ensure the safety of all residents, we want to provide you with some guidance regarding Area Commission elections.

Yesterday, Mayor Ginther issued an executive order that permits Area Commissions to suspend their election procedures and allow for the extension of Area Commissioner terms expiring June 1, 2020 through December 1, 2020. The extension enables Commissioners to continue serving beyond their previously determined term expiration date to ensure continued operation of Area Commissions. All Area Commissioner terms expiring during this time are automatically extended through no later than December 31, 2020. The provisions of Columbus City Code 3109.09 requiring that members of an area commission serve for a term of three years is temporarily suspended. A copy of the executive order is attached for your reference.

This executive order is in response to Area Commissioner concerns about holding in-person elections. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and consequent restrictions, some Area Commissions are unable to hold in-person elections or collect needed petition signatures as required in their by-laws. Because in-person elections cannot be held, some Commission seats would have gone unfilled and as a result, preventing Commissions from meeting quorum requirements.

Per the executive order, any process or procedures specified in by-laws may be waived by the Area Commission. To ensure the ability to meet quorum in 2021, Area Commissions are strongly encouraged to implement alternative election processes this year that will allow the community to participate while also following current COVID 19 prevention best practices.

Should an Area Commission implement an alternative election process or choose to hold in-person elections prior to December 31, 2020, the individuals elected will be appointed for a full three year term. Please work with your Neighborhood Liaison to



identify an appropriate election process for your Area Commission by the end of this year.

We appreciate the work you and your fellow Commissioners do to offer input, provide public forums and make recommendations regarding City business. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information. I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe holiday.

Sincerely,

David E. Hooie, Neighborhoods Program Coordinator

